

So I suggest that we have open dialogue, we have open debate. I challenge this civilization to be reasonable, have reason, be analytical, be a critical thinker.

We send our kids off to school, and sometimes they're just taught a mantra, but they're not taught to take ideas apart and understand the components of them and put them back together. Well, I've just taken America apart and described some of its essential components, history apart, and put it back together, Mr. Speaker, and, hopefully, informed this body of some of the principal reasons why America is such a great Nation.

We're a great Nation because we have God-given liberty. We would not be a great Nation if we didn't exercise those God-given liberties. If we don't have access to those rights, if we don't put our positions out there in front of the public and challenge the people in this country to analyze those alternatives—what if we went down one path?

What if some leader from on high, let's just say King George, not Prince George today, but King George, what if he decided we're going to go down this path, and no one shall discuss anything outside of this line that I've described for you?

What kind of a country would we be?

Would we believe that one mortal individual can chart a path for this country superior to the collective wisdom of 316 million people?

I don't think so, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think thinking Americans will either.

But I know that this country's full of emotionalism. As I watched the reactions to the George Zimmerman trial and verdict, I saw a lot of people who simply denied the facts that had been proven in law, and seemed to be incapable of considering anything that didn't concur with their conclusion that they had drawn before they saw the facts.

Now, I engage in this debate. I challenge people to debate with me because I believe one of two things: if I can't sustain myself in debate, I need to go get some more information. I need to get better informed. Or could it be that I'm wrong?

Only two alternatives can come from not being able to sustain yourself in a debate, and I'll go back and get all the information that I can get, but I'll also reconsider, and anybody should. That's why I challenge people to debate. I'll take it up, and we will see who can sustain themselves. We may not get this all resolved in one discussion.

In fact, in this Congress it's been a very rare thing, over the last 10-plus years that I've been here, to see anybody stand up and admit, I was wrong. What you said changes my position. What I learned changes my position.

No, there are too many egos involved in this Congress for that to happen very often. It will happen a little bit privately, it will happen incrementally, but it doesn't happen publicly, unless there's some kind of leverage brought to bear.

So here's my point, Mr. Speaker, and that is this: Our southern border is porous. It's not as porous as it was 7 or 8 years ago, mainly because the economy has grown in Mexico at about twice the rate that it's grown in the United States over the last 4½ or 5 years. We don't have as much pressure on our border.

But I can tell you this: 80 to 90 percent of the illegal drugs consumed in America come from or through Mexico. I can tell you that in Mexico they are recruiting kids to be drug smugglers. Between the ages of 11 and 18 they have arrested and, I believe, incarcerated, and the number of convictions is at least this: over 800 per year over the last couple of years at that ratio of those who are kids who are smuggling drugs into the United States.

We pick up some on our side of the border. That adds to that number, the ones that we catch. Many get away. Every night some come across the border smuggling drugs across the border. Increasingly, the higher value drugs, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine in some form or another, are being strapped to the bodies sometimes of young girls, teenage girls.

The media is replete with this. Anybody that reads the paper should know, especially those that live on the border, should know that there are many, many young people coming across the border unlawfully who are smuggling drugs into the United States.

They should also know that now, the drug cartels, and I mean specifically, the Mexican drug cartels, have taken over drug distribution in most of the major cities in America. I think intel will tell you every major city in America. And the numbers that I've seen go from a little over 200 cities in this country to 2,000.

I don't know what population that dials it down to or what areas. I haven't seen the map. But it should be appalling to a country and a civilization to see that that's taken place.

When you understand that, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency, of every chain of illegal drug distribution we have in the country, they will tell you, at least privately, as they have to me on multiple occasions, that at least one link is illegal aliens that are smuggling drugs into the United States.

It's important that we know that as a Congress, as a country, as a civilization. If we deny those facts, if we deny the information that comes, even out of the Obama administration that certainly supports those, if you deny the information that comes out through the major media that's there, if you deny what we're told by our law enforcement officers on the border of the United States that are continually interdicting drugs at about the same rate that they did 6 or 7 or 8 years ago, when the population of illegals was flowing over the border at a faster rate than it is today, the illegal drugs coming across the border are roughly similar to that time.

That says there's still a high demand in the United States. A high demand means drugs are likely to come in. If we are enforcing our borders and tightening security the price of drugs should go up. If you look at the price of drugs, I think you're going to find that we haven't been very effective interdicting drugs coming across our southern border.

Part of that is they find new ways to smuggle, and some of those reasons are because kids are being used to smuggle drugs into the United States. That's appalling to me.

The death across the Arizona border, it's still there. It happens through the summer. And this debate taking place now in the middle of the summer is going to end up with more people being found out there on the desert, in the brush, who have lost their lives trying to get into the United States of America.

We need a secure border. We need to build a fence, a wall, and another fence, so we've got two patrolling zones. We need to put the sensory devices on top of there. We need to use our boots on the ground in the most effective way possible.

No nation should have an open borders policy. No nation should have a blind-eye policy towards the enforcement of the laws. No nation can long remain a great nation if they decide to sacrifice the rule of law on the altar of political expediency.

No nation like the United States of America can continue to grow and be a strong nation if we are going to judge people because they disagree with our agenda, rather than the content of their statement.

We have to be critical thinkers. We have to be analytical. We should understand facts from emotion.

And let's pull together, let's understand that we do have compassion. We do have compassion, for every human person deserves dignity. We need to treat them with that warmth, treat them with that love, as the American people always have, just like the Korean War veterans did when they gave themselves for a country they never knew and a people they never met.

But we must not sacrifice the rule of law on the altar of political expediency.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HORSFORD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a medical-mandated recovery.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 26, 2013, at 10 a.m.